

CPYRGHT

Ag 3-1
x Pers. 2 C. Herter

CPYRGHT

HERTER CITES MAJOR WORK

Points To Attraction Of Industry As Top Achievement

By JOHN VAN CAMP
[Sun Staff Correspondent]

Boston March 11—Christian A. Herter, "moderate" Republican governor of Massachusetts and an "available" candidate for the vice presidency, believes his chief contribution as governor has been helping to attract new industry to the Bay State.

Massachusetts, like the other New England states, has been faced by the flight of textile and other industries to the South.

Since 1952, when he became governor, Herter said there has been a satisfying upswing in industrial employment. The piecemeal departure of the shoe manufacturing industry was halted and last year Massachusetts again produced more shoes than any other state.

Say Democrats Hostile

Herter said that when he came into office it was essential to "change the climate" for business and industry.

Massachusetts Republicans have charged that the Democrats were increasingly hostile to business and industry. Agriculture in the State is a negligible quantity, accounting for only two per cent of the employment.

Herter said there was obviously no chance of holding industries once attracted to New England primarily by water power, whose problem now was to get close to the sources of raw materials.

He therefore concentrated on new industries with small raw material freight costs. The result has been a growth of the electronics and electrical equipment industries in Massachusetts.

Offers Skilled Workmen

What the Bay State has to offer is not tax exemptions, but rather skilled workmen plus research facilities, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Elmer Nelson, chairman of the Republican State Committee, agrees that increasing new employment opportunities has been Herter's greatest achievement as governor.

It also illustrates one aspect of the Governor's philosophy of "moderate-ism." He believes private enterprise should be aided by Government but should be depended on to do the main job.

Too Tall For Army

Herter, like all good Boston Brahmins, is a Harvard man. He entered Harvard at 16 and was graduated *cum laude* in 1915.

His efforts to get in the Army during World War I were thwarted. He was turned down because of his height.

But his brother, one year older, was killed in the fighting in France and associates say this had a lasting influence on the Governor and partially explains his long concentration on foreign affairs.

For a brief period, at the age of 21, Herter was acting Minister in Belgium and did noteworthy work repatriating American prisoners of war.

Cited Communism Menace

In 1918 he was secretary of the American Peace Commission in Paris and in 1920 began a long association with Herbert Hoover when he became executive secretary for the European Relief Commission.

In this period his was one of the first voices raised about the menace of communism, particularly in Germany.

From 1921 to 1924 Herter was personal assistant to Hoover, then serving as Secretary of Commerce. Between 1924 and 1931 he was in the publishing business in Boston and also was a visiting lecturer on international law and government at Harvard.

Herter's political career began in 1931 when he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He remained in the

State Legislature until 1943 and during his last four years was Speaker of the House.

Authorized Law On Jobless

While in the House he authorized the Massachusetts State Unemployment Compensation Law, the second such State law passed and one which helped serve as a model for the subsequent Federal law.

One of his critics says that Herter's unemployment compensation law "was not notably generous."

Herter went to Congress in 1943 and in 1952 was drafted by the Massachusetts Republican leadership to run for Governor. He won an upset victory over the incumbent, Paul A. Devers, and won again handily in 1954.

Has Georgetown Home

He will not seek re-election and that brings up the question of his political future. Significantly, the Herters still own a home in the Georgetown section of Washington. Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, is the present tenant. Preceding him was Harold E. Talbott, who resigned as Secretary of the Air Force in a conflict-of-interest dispute.

Herter is expected to return to Washington—if not as Vice President then as a member of the Eisenhower Administration.

Two questions—health and birth—have been raised about his possible candidacy either as President—this was before Mr. Eisenhower's announcement—or as Vice President.

Victim Of Arthritis

Herter for years has suffered with arthritis and last October questions were asked about his fitness to serve. Within a day, a letter from the Governor's physician to his wife was made available to the press.

It said the arthritis was not "progressive" and pointed out Herter had lived an active life in Congress and in the Boston State House "with no periods of incapacity."

Born In Paris

The other question rises from the fact that Governor Herter was born in Paris. His father was an artist and the family did not return to the United States until Herter was 9 years old.

Is Herter, therefore, "native born" as the Constitution specifies for the top national posts?

A Supreme Court decision in 1860 has convinced Herter's lawyer friends that he is "native born" under the only interpretation available.

His opponents, however, would certainly publicize a statement he made at a political meeting in

Massachusetts in October, 1954.

Representative Hesselton (R., Mass.), a close friend and political associate, introduced Herter as a possible candidate for President in 1956 if Mr. Eisenhower did not run again.

According to the Boston Herald's account, Herter expressed gratification but added:

"Unfortunately I am not eligible to serve as President. I was born in Paris.

"The fact is, however, I have no ambitions to be President. I am concerned only with serving another term in the governorship. It is encouraging, nevertheless, to know that some think so highly of my public service."